



The American Legion observed Veterans Day. Read our tribute to a veteran on Page 19.



More pictures of the big win are on Page 12.



The all-important stage crew plays an essential role in the success of the performance. The crew from the Midnight Players is no exception. See Family Album on Page 2 for more.



Poolesville High School teacher Mark Curran helps student Peter Luu prepare to send a question into orbit for astronaut Michael Fincke on the International Space Station. Read about it in School News on Page 7.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 21, 2008

Volume V, Number 15.

Poolesville Shuts Down Glenelg for State Volleyball Championship

By Jeff Stuart

The Falcons have landed. On Friday, November 14, the Poolesville Girls' Volleyball team (19-0) resoundingly defeated Glenelg, 25-6, 25-7, and 25-13 in the Maryland IA State Championships at Ritchie Coliseum. They wanted to raise the bar for an already very successful program. They did. Now they can raise their first state championship banner in their familiar Poolesville High School gymnasium. It will replace the "Get back to Ritchie Coliseum and take care of business" poster that served as motivation all year. Mission accomplished.

Led by seven seniors, the team indeed did "take care of business" all season long. They did not lose a match or even a single game in the regular season this year, remaining undefeated for a second consecutive year. In the state championship, outside hitter Celi Blanc led the way with eleven kills and three service aces. Blanc will play for St. Mary's College of Maryland next season. Setter Jenny Better had twenty-seven assists. Chelsea Glowacki and Jess Chittenden were major contributors as well. Christina Hanson, Megan Kenneweg, and Tori Kirpatrick, the remaining seniors, created the passes and digs that allowed the offense to run out to a 10-2 lead in game one and finish with a 13-1 run, overwhelming the Glenelg Gladiators. Poolesville sophomore



The Poolesville High School volleyball team after their victory in the state title game.

libero Paige Sekerak pitched in defensively with a number of key early digs that seemed to deflate the Glenelg players.

That the Falcons have mastered that technique is a tribute

to Coach Fran Duvall. As the team gathered in the gym prior to boarding their bus to College Park and their collective mission to become state champs, Coach Duvall brought them into a circle. She told them they were

ready to make the trip. She wanted them to remember that their success

-Continued on Page 18.

Clarksburg Residents Testify on Town Center Plans

By Kristen Milton

The worlds of retail and real estate are different places than they were four years ago when plans for the Clarksburg Town Center first threw up red flags, but a recent hearing demonstrated that passions still run high, and some residents won't give up on seeing the promise of the Up-County's last major community fulfilled.

In a November 6 hearing running more than eleven hours, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved some elements of the latest iteration of plans for a 270-acre development to be located at Clarksburg Road and Snowden Farm Parkway but said more study was needed on other key issues including parking and a recreation center. The developer, Newland, is to submit addition-

al information by November 20.

The November 6 hearing covered the typical project, preliminary and site plan applications for the Town Center development, but was also, as Chairman Royce Hanson noted in opening the discussion, "a continuation of an enforcement action."

Work on the development largely stopped years ago when area residents noticed that construction did not match approved plans. After hearings, court challenges, and policy changes, it was decided that building violations would be addressed with a Plan of Compliance negotiated through mediation in 2006 and committing the developer, Newland, to various concessions and amenities.

In the intervening years, plans submitted by Newland have dropped or adjusted parts of the compliance plan. One

-Continued on Page 19.

Family Album



The Family Album is sponsored by Selby's Market Your IGA Hometown Food Store



The Christmas season got off to a good start at the Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church's Annual Christmas Bazaar luncheon.

Cast members in the Midnight Players performance of Pillow Talk prepare themselves on opening night.



Math class got very scary at The Barnesville School last week when second graders carved ghoulish jack-o-lanterns as part of a "Pumpkin Math" project.

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In the Garden

Great Books for Great Gardeners

By Maureen O'Connell

Very often, people ask me to recommend a book about gardening in general or about a specific topic or plant. Now that our outdoor gardening chores are done, it is a good time to head indoors, pull up a comfy chair by the fire, and explore the world of gardening through books. With the holidays near, a book would be a welcome gift choice for your gardening friends.

When selecting garden books, I place them in four categories: how-to-books, specific plant and design books, coffee table books, and garden essays. Whether you are an experienced gardener or a beginner gardener, there is nothing like hearing other gardeners' successes and failures for improving your own skills. Sometimes, to your pleasure, you

discover that your thumb is not as brown as you think it is.

Last week, I explored several area bookstores, on-line bookstores, and my own library of garden books. There is a plethora of choices.

How-to books

We are all familiar with the series of books called Name-your-topic for Dummies. There is, of course, *Gardening for Dummies*. Like all the dummy books, it offers an inexpensive, small paperback that is an all-in-one reference for gardening basics and design, and you don't have to be a dummy to find the information very useful. It covers roses, perennials, bulbs, vegetables, and herbs, and it answers a myriad of gardening questions.

Better Homes and Gardens has been around for a long time as a reference source on many diverse topics. Its *New Garden Book* is a very good basics book and complete garden guide for many aspects of gardening. It has been called by many garden experts from all

around the country "the must-have reference book."

Readers of *The Washington Post* will recognize the name Barbara Damrosch. She operates Four Seasons Farm in Harborside, Maine and writes the weekly *Post* column, "A Cook's Garden." *The Garden Primer* is her completely revised 2008 garden bible. It covers the essentials of planning, planting, and maintaining flower and vegetable gardens of over 370 plants. Along with her tips and advice, she offers bits of her quirky Maine wisdom.

The renowned White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Connecticut offers advice from fifty-eight years as plantsmen in a small (33 pages), inexpensive (\$2.00) brochure entitled "Designing Your Garden." In a step-by-step layout, it helps you select a site, size, and shape for a flower garden and then fill it with a range of interesting plants. It includes planting diagrams for four pre-designed gardens (Shady Lane Garden, Deer-Resistant

Garden for Sun, Cool Lights Shade Garden, and Sultry Delights Garden for Sun), plus line drawings and more than a dozen color photographs. With one little guide, you can create instant gardens.

I am placing the following book, *The American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*, in the how-to category, but it might be more comfortable on the coffee table. Weighing in at a 1100-page hardcover book, I don't think you will keep it in your garden tote for a quick reference source—but, in a truly encyclopedic style, it does provide you everything and more that you need to know about plants from A through Z.

To a lot of gardeners, pruning is a mystery, and it puts them into a Pruning Panic: what do you prune, when do you prune, and where do you prune. Lee Reich's *The Pruning Book*, in straightforward prose and diagrams, gives you

-Continues on Page 14.

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Commentary

A True Gentleman Moves On

By Rande Davis

Ray Hoewing's announcement that he will not continue publishing his highly admirable *Poolesville Online* newspaper is a great loss to our community. His weekly reporting, insight, and journalistic style will be sorely missed by all.

Over these past four years, one of the really great benefits of publishing the *Monocle* has been the development of a friendship with Ray that otherwise may not have happened. While some may have seen the *Monocle* and *Poolesville Online* as competitors, Ray and I never did. Interestingly, as he was considering starting *POL*, he discovered that the *Monocle* was also being created by John Clayton and me. From our initial meeting at McDonald's to compare our two ideas to this very day, he has consistently been a true gentleman in the full

classical definition of the term, personally, and professionally. He is a man of immense integrity, sincerity, and talent.

His reporting, especially on town matters, has been spot-on accurate and readers could always count on his thoughtful perspective in presenting the sometimes complicated news of this small town. Never one to use his journalistic platform to express spite or anger, his righteous indignation toward false reporting comes from his admirable sense of justice.

The *Monocle* prides itself in its accurate reporting. Still, we understand how an online weekly newspaper has some advantages, especially in not having the physical restrictions of the print media. Ray Hoewing's *Poolesville Online* contributed knowledge, information, and entertainment by providing a full journalistic experience for area residents. We can't be sure if the writer's bug will bite Ray again anytime soon, but if it does, the *Monocle* wants him to know our pages are always open to him whenever the spirit moves him.

We Give Thanks

As families gather for Thanksgiving, we at the *Monocacy Monocle* are reminded of another extended family to whom we give our most sincere thanks—our readers and advertisers.

Over the years, we have been humbled by the outspoken support of our readers in over 4,000 homes in the area. In our effort to uplift the community, it is our readers who have uplifted us. In these uncertain times, the demands of publishing a quality community newspaper are, at the very least, challenging. You—our readers—have made our efforts rewarding and worthwhile.

In our special feature departments, such as *Family Album*, *Things to Do*, and *Tidbits*, we always invite you to send stories and pictures to us to share with all. It is your lives that we seek to chronicle.

Of course, none of this would happen without our fine advertisers. By advertising, they may advance the goals of their businesses or organizations, but they also share in our mission with the community. Along with our readers, we give thanks to our advertisers for their contribution in making the place we live a real hometown.

The Monocacy
MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

Join us for Poolesville's Annual Thanksgiving Worship Service

Sponsored by the Churches of Poolesville

When: Sunday, November 23rd, 2008, 7:00 pm

Where: Poolesville Baptist Church, 17550 W. Willard

The Rev. Jaez Broadhurst, Sr. Pastor

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Please join us for this ecumenical service of Thanksgiving as we gather with our friends and neighbors to recognize and celebrate our many blessings. Offering to benefit W.U.M.C.O.

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Business Briefs

Pigs Fly to Poolesville

Just in time for the Holiday Season, Eleanor Bateman's When Pigs Fly, a home design and décor company, will now be sharing space in Jo's Frame Shop. When Pigs Fly offers vintage furniture, antiques, gifts for all occasions, and many more surprises for this holiday season. Eleanor has been in the home design and décor business for five years and also provides consulting services for home design for realtors and residents. She joins Jan Schultz who recently opened Cabin Fever, a retail store offering gifts and décor items to benefit cancer research in the same location across from the Poolesville post office. Also in time for the holidays will be furniture from Broad Run Farms.

Additionally, there will be picture framing, cards, and gift certificates available. The hours of operation for the gifts are from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Jo's Frame Shop is open six days a week, and those want to give framed gifts should not wait until

Tidbits of the Past

Poolesville High, the champions of the northern division, and Rockville High, who had won the southern division, met in the first soccer game of the county championship. Rockville won, 4-2. Some of the Poolesville players were W. Jones, Hough, Darby, Bell, Fyfe, and Blythe.

November 3, 1925 The Barnesville Community Hall was dedicated in ceremonies held at the hall. Recitations were given by pupils of the Barnesville School, as well as an address by States Attorney Cissel, a piano recital by Miss Elizabeth Jones of Dickerson, and other short talks.

November 6, 1971 Development International Corporation of Maryland announced plans to build townhouses on 161 building lots in Poolesville. The townhouses were expected to sell in the \$28,000 range.

November 10, 1912 Mrs. A. P. Fletchall was the hostess of the November meeting of the

the last minute to place their order. The grand opening is scheduled for December 5.

Maryland Daily Celebrates 125 years of Publication

The Frederick News-Post celebrated 125 years on October 15 as the oldest, continuously published family-owned independent newspaper in Maryland. The News-Post is one of only 236 newspapers out of 1,447 dailies publishing today that remain independent and family-owned, according to Dirks, Van Essen & Murray, a merger-and-acquisition firm that keeps data on the U.S. newspaper industry. The Frederick paper is the twenty-sixth oldest family-owned newspaper in America.

"We're proud of our long commitment and tradition of upholding the First Amendment freedom of the press as one of the few independent, family-owned newspapers left in the country," said Myron W. Randall, The News-Post's editor and publisher.

The Frederick News-Post hasn't missed a regularly scheduled day of publication since its founding in

1883, when it was The Daily News. "We have followed our basic principles since the first edition of The Daily News, in which we outlined the plan to provide news with 'thoroughness and reliability,' as well as things 'of interest to the general reader,'" Randall said.

Earlier this year, the paper relocated from downtown Frederick to a new 144,000-square-foot building at Ballenger Center Drive on the south side of the city. "The new building allowed us to bring together the newspaper's various departments into one location, including space for our new TKS press, and a studio to produce video for the TV and the web," Randall said. The press can print 70,000 copies an hour at top speed.

Several proclamations marked the 125th anniversary, including ones from Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, the Maryland General Assembly, the City of Frederick, and Frederick County Commissioners.

home of his parents at Rockville. The funeral was held at the family home with burial at the Union Cemetery.

November 27, 1930 The bridge at Furnace Ford on Route 28, north of Dickerson, resulted in a lengthy detour for motorists. Northbound traffic from the vicinity of Beallsville had to go south to Lee's Corner, then left at Bucklodge, through Boyds, then left at Route 240, and then proceeded north to Frederick.



The Frederick News-Post's Randall family: Deedee Randall-Luttrell, Corporate Liaison; Myron Randall, President/Editor and Publisher, Frances Randall, Chairman of the Board, William Randall, General Manager of FNP Printing and Publishing, and Ruth Ann Randall, Director of Corporate Relations.

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Equestrian Mining "Black Gold" in Your Stable Yard

By Carol Rae Hansen, Ph.D.
Director, Equine Therapy Associates

You are unlikely to find Texas Tea on your back forty, as the Beverly Hillbillies ditty so evocatively suggested. Instead, you can make Black Gold by turning your manure and barn waste into compost. Composting is the aerobic decomposition of organic material by microorganisms under controlled conditions. Composting allows you to cut farm costs, to control manure's natural odor, to minimize energy-intensive commercial fertilizer that may be environmentally dangerous, to be good animal stewards, as well as good neighbors, to kill parasite eggs and larvae, and to increase the fertility of your pastures,

fruit trees, shrubs, and lawns. Composting also controls insect breeding areas, it conditions your soil, and it helps keep phosphorus and nitrogen from leeching into groundwater, where they can contaminate wells and adjacent streams. You can also share your compost with friends and neighbors, or sell it to mushroom and worm farmers, or landscapers. If you don't already compost your barn waste, now is a great time to start.

What do you need? Collect your manure and soiled bedding daily. Deposit it on a level impervious surface (concrete or hard-packed clay) downwind of your house, any neighboring properties, and preferably at least 125 feet from the stable to minimize flies in the barn. The compost piles should also be at least 200 feet away from homes, wells, and surface water, and at least 100 feet away from an inhabited property's line. If you have a large animal presence, you may elect to compost in a specially constructed and lined pit; medium sized operations

may stockpile and compost on a concrete pad with three sides; such facilities can be built with cost-share aide and planning expertise from the Department of Agriculture. Thanks to new grant funds available from the Maryland Department of Agriculture, now even smaller barns, with up to seven equines, can take advantage of cost-share opportunities to construct animal waste management systems, pasture enhancements, and sacrifice lots. A farm of any size can benefit from free advice and technical assistance, while large farms can benefit from MACS or EQIP funding.

You can make excellent compost within a year or two without a tractor to turn the piles. If you can turn your windrow or piles with a bucket at least twice a month, you can produce fine compost in only four to six months. You can also avoid the chore of turning, and speed up the process, if you place several three- to four-inch perforated PVC pipes into the piles vertically like stovepipes, and hori-

zontally parallel to the ground. Locate your composting facility in an easily accessible place, near a water source, and at least several feet from any trees. Choose either a sunny or a shady spot, but compost piles exposed to full sun require more care. The most effective composting operations combine three or four piles, each at least six feet high when finished, to ensure that the internal temperature reaches 145 degrees for two weeks, which is necessary to kill weed seeds, fly larva, viruses, most bacteria, fungi, and protozoa. (Buy a long-probe thermometer to test.) A dry pile will not compost, so leave a concave depression on the top to capture rainwater; a moisture content of fifty to sixty percent is best. A 25:1 to 30:1 mixture of carbon-rich (brown) items to nitrogen materials (green) works best, with a pH of 6.5 to 8.5. Carbon-rich, brown items include dry leaves, manure, sawdust and chips, and straw. Nitrogen-rich, green items

-Continued on Page 21.

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School News

Carrie Reed, New Assistant Principal at

John Poole Middle

By Katherine Connor

John Poole Middle School welcomes the presence of new assistant principal Ms. Carrie Reed to the school community this year. Ms. Reed joins the Timberwolves from Lakelands Park Middle School in Gaithersburg, after she was transferred to John Poole by the school system.

Ms. Reed grew up with her twin sister in Woodbine, Maryland, in a country community.

She attended Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business management. Upon graduation, she began working as an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Instructional Assistant (IA) at Blair High School in Montgomery County, while attending the University of Maryland Baltimore County Graduate School for four years. Ms. Reed graduated with a Master of Arts degree in education, and then began working as an ESOL teacher at Blair. She remained there for seven years, and then became an ESOL resource teacher at Seneca Valley High School in Montgomery County. In 2002, Ms. Reed received her administration and supervision certification from Johns Hopkins

University, and became an assistant principal at Robert Frost Middle School. After her three-year tenure at Frost, Mrs. Reed had the opportunity to open Lakelands Park Middle School where she worked as an assistant principal for another three years.

Ms. Reed feels that Poolesville reminds her of where she "grew up while attending middle and high school" because she "grew up on a horse farm" and had to travel distances to get to school and malls. She is not used to being in a community as small as John Poole's, and believes that it brings both challenges and advantages. She feels that her experiences at Lakelands Park, Robert Frost, Seneca Valley, and Blair will help her to

strengthen John Poole. She is glad to be working with the students and staff at John Poole, and hopes that by sharing her knowledge and experiences to make it the best middle school in the county.

Ms. Reed currently lives in the country in Mount Airy, and loves traveling, learning new cultures and languages, listening to music, going to Maryland Terrapin football games, driving her Corvette, and spending time with her family and friends. John Poole Middle School has a valuable resource in Ms. Reed, who has high hopes for the future.

School News

Poolesville Students Talk To Astronaut on Space Station

By Rande Davis

Students from Poolesville High School did something that forty years ago only the President of the United States could do. They talked directly to an orbiting astronaut.

As part of NASA's International Education Week three schools were selected to ask questions to astronaut Michael Fincke on the orbiting space station while it zipped past Hawaii at 17,500 mph. The schools chosen were Cotopaxi High School in Ecuador, Enloe Magnet School in Raleigh, North Carolina, and our very own Poolesville High School.

Each school was allowed to offer seven questions with the time constraint of having only eight and a half minutes before communication through a ham radio "telebridge" in Hawaii would lose connection with the space station.

Teacher Mark Curran of the

Science, Math, Computer Science House at PHS was assisted by Frank Bauer who managed the process of arranging the hookup with ham radio station WHGPN in Hawaii. Ham Radio experts, Dick Flagg and Nancy Rocheleau, had to get up at 3:00 a.m. Hawaiian time so as to make connection with the space station as it flew over Hawaii at a time that the students would be in school. The entire event was simulcast on the web whose controller was in Australia and who was at work at 1:00 a.m.

In preparation prior to the call, Mr. Curran talked of the earlier days of space communication and how it could be so sporadic and intently dramatic especially when the communication could be lost as the orbiting astronauts moved to the other side of the moon. In those days, the only phone call to the astronauts would have been from the President.

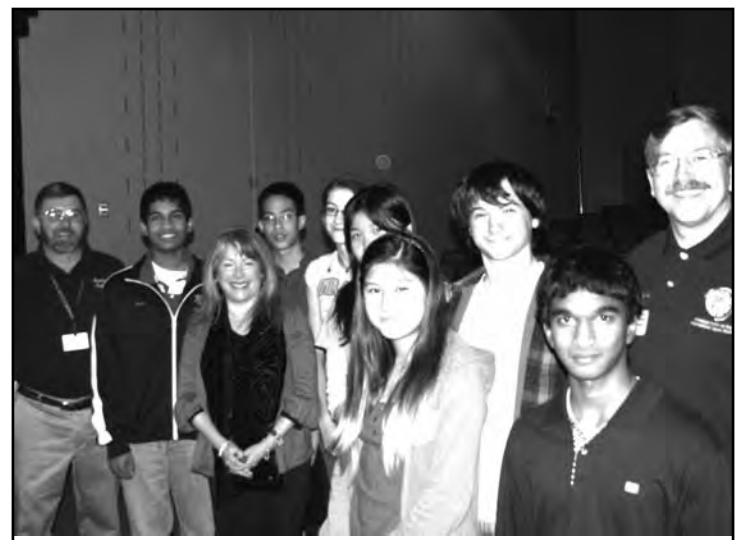
Students chosen to ask the questions were Chen Dou, Samuel Haque, Jacob Siegel, Megan Weaver, Peter Luu, Parakh Jain, and Allie Abad.

Jacob Siegel asked a fun question as to what was the weirdest experiment in the space station. Astronaut Michael Fincke enjoyed the question and responded that recording responses when being blindfolded

in zero gravity was his choice as the weirdest.

Other questions with answers in parentheses concerned preparation physically and mentally for space travel (by Dou -lifetime effort but most important was support of family, friends, and crew members); how has space benefitted research (by Haque -allows experimentation without effects of gravity); what happens when medical issues come up (by Weaver - medical

training and equipment plus full communication with medical staff on earth); does he support putting a space station around Mars. (yes). Time ran out before Parakh or Allie could get their question in but they did get to ask astronaut Dr. Donald A. Thompson their questions in person as the students traveled to Washington on November 18 at a educational program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education.



Teacher Mark Curran (left) of the Poolesville High School Science, Math, and Computer Science House was assisted by Frank Bauer (right) as their students were part of a three-school communication link to orbiting astronauts on the International Space Station. The students chosen to ask the questions are pictured with Principal Deena Levine: Parakh Jain, Peter Luu, Megan Weaver, Chen Dou, Allie Abad, Jacob Siegel, and Samuel Haque.

Local News

Poolesville Holiday Season Kicks Off with Time to Give Thanks

By Rande Davis

The tradition of neighbors coming together to celebrate the holidays has been a very strong one in the area. This year promises new events and exciting changes from the past celebrations that will bring even greater joy to the season. You will not want to miss any of the events.

Macy's has a parade to mark the beginning of the holidays. In Poolesville, things get started on a more gracious note: an ecumenical worship service.

The churches in Poolesville have had a long tradition of sharing in ecumenical community worship services. In the past, they have picnicked together, joined choirs, and even traded pastors. For many years, they shared a worship service near the end of November in an ecumenical Thanksgiving

service. We can't quite determine just how long the Thanksgiving celebration has been around, but a shared turkey dinner was also part of the community decades ago.

Rev. Ken Fell of the United Memorial Methodist Church explained to the *Monocle* that the clergy from the churches in Poolesville get together frequently to support one another, talk about common concerns, and find paths of mutual cooperation. The participating churches are Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church, United Memorial Methodist Church, Poolesville Baptist Church, Poolesville Presbyterian Church, Jerusalem Baptist Church, Elijah United Methodist Church, and St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Last year, the Thanksgiving service was held at UMMC with a decision to use the occasion to help support WUMCO. This year, the event will be hosted by Poolesville Baptist Church with the sermon by the new guy in town, the Rev. Tom Purdy of St. Peter's, who is pleased to be given the honor and hopes his message of knowing "our God is a God of abundant love" will set

the stage for meaningful holiday season. This year offers a wonderful opportunity to hear selections from various choirs. The event scheduled for November 23 at 7:00 p.m. will also have a time for some fellowship and refreshment.

With souls nourished, spirits will then be uplifted during the Third Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony at Whalen Commons on December 5 beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is a family event not to be missed and something to be enjoyed by all. New this year, children can visit with Santa. Photographer Hilary Schwab will take colored prints of the children, and they will be available to order online with a percentage of proceeds going to UMCVFD. Area choirs will join and lead in song, refreshments will be available for purchase, and everyone is invited to donate a new unwrapped toy to help with the WUMCO Toy Drive. The highlight will be at 7:30 p.m. when the holiday lights in the park will be lit.

Finally, the retailers in town are initiating a First Friday Holiday Festival that not only will

have merchants open from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with refreshments like cheese, cider, cookies, etc. but will also feature the opening of a weekend craft show at the HMD Museum in the center of old town. Area artisans will personally be on hand to present their crafts and creations for sale. The craft show will continue through the weekend and will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. Open Friday evening and offering refreshments and good cheer will be Hearthside Gardens, Hearthside Antiques, Crafts-A-Plenty, Jo's Frame Shop, Cabin Fever, and When Pigs Fly, the latter two located in Jo's Frame Shop.

On Saturday morning, the annual Christmas with Santa breakfast will be at the fire hall in Beallsville, and St. Peter's will have a visit by St. Nicholas with breakfast and goodies and some Dutch treats to share the story of the gentleman who originated our Christmas holidays as we know them today. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and joyous shopping!



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Tidbits

Scouts Gather Canned Food for WUMCO

Area scouts from Troop 496 spent the better part of Saturday, November 8 working to help others in need. This event was their annual drive to collect canned food items from area residents to help stock the shelves of WUMCO Help!, the upper Montgomery County service organization that aids persons in need with various necessities including food, transportation to medical services, heating assistance, etc. Even with the economy threatening to hurt non-profit organizations, the holiday spirit was not in short supply in our area. The scouts actually increased the amount of canned food donations from last year, reaching an amazing 5,300 pounds of food.

Peace Poster Winner Chosen

Michael Lee, an eighth grade student at John Poole Middle School, has taken the first step to becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning the Monocacy Lions Club Peace Poster competition. "Peace Begins with Me" was the theme of the 2008-2009 Peace Poster contest. Students were encouraged to visually depict their interpretation of the contest's theme. Each poster is judged on originality, artistic merit, and expression of the theme. Michael's poster will now be entered into the District 22-C competition.

Vets Honored and Winners Named

American Legion Post 247 of Poolesville held an observance in honor of all military veterans at the memorial on Whalen Commons in Poolesville. Steve Gibson read a prayer of thanksgiving and William Poole thanked those who attended for coming by to spend just a moment in honor of all those who have served and for those now serving.

After the wreath-placing ceremony, Post 247 drew the winners for their annual raffle fundraising program. The winners were: Chrissy Stefanelli (set of 2008 uncirculated coins), Les Rechs (White's Ferry commuter passes), Mike McCarthy (\$100 savings bond), Glenice Rhodas

(Montgomery County Bicentennial Map), and Kyle Crutchley (Hug Our Troops teddy bear).

The Barnesville School's Youngest Students Learn about Fire Safety

Students stopped, dropped, and rolled when the Beallsville Fire Department visited the pre-K and early childhood classes at the Barnesville School.

Beallsville's Captain Reda sent six firefighters to the school, including one female firefighter named Miss Lisa. She spoke directly to the students about fire safety, while Firefighter Jimmy dressed in a complete firefighter's outfit. The children watched carefully as he put on all his gear including his boots, helmet, and tank. Jimmy had all the children crawl on all fours and stay low as they would do in case of a fire. They also discussed calling 911 in case of an emergency. Prekindergarten teacher Rose Lovesee had shown the children how to use the phone and call this number earlier in the week.

After the demonstration, classes went outside to see the fire truck and ambulance used during emergencies. The children were invited to go inside and inspect both vehicles and the supplies each contained. Each child was also dubbed an honorary firefighter with a red firefighter hat.

Explosion Are Champs

The U19 Girls Classic soccer team, Explosion, finished the season as Division One champions. Their record was six wins and one loss, which was a forfeit. The team was coached by Poolesville's Barry Langevin, and is comprised primarily of Poolesville High School students, along with several players from the surrounding area.

A Ghost Story of Christmas

On Tuesday, December 2, 2008, a traditional Washington Christmas event, Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol," will return to the stage for this year's run. In the past, it has been held at Ford's Theatre, but it will be performed this year at the Harman Center for the Arts, Lansburgh Theatre, 450 7th Street N.W., Washington, D.C., while Ford's Theatre is closed for

Local News

C&O Canal Trust Needs Help Following Breach of Canal

The C&O Canal Trust needs donations to help correct the problems resulting from a breach of the canal earlier this year.

On September 5 and 6, 2008, the worst disaster to strike the C&O Canal since the massive floods of '96 came in the form of Tropical Storm Hanna. The rainfall associated with the storm opened small cracks in the towpath and tore a 125-foot hole in the historic trail. The breach has closed the towpath between Great Falls and Angler's Inn, an area frequented by 1.5 million visitors every year. A seven-mile stretch of canal, from Widewater to Lock 5, has been drained of water and will remain dry for the foreseeable future. The National Park Service estimates it may take two years and \$2 million to make the needed repairs. The C&O Canal Trust, the official fundraising partner of NPS, is

working with the community to raise \$100,000 to assist the park in establishing a safe and convenient detour, developing initial designs for the repair, and tackling associated projects.

No one is quite certain yet what caused the failure. Cracks in the surface of the towpath were first noticed by members of the volunteer Bike Patrol on Friday, September 5. Park staff evaluated the site and closed the towpath to visitors later on Friday. While this was happening, staff was also preparing for the arrival of Tropical Storm Hanna on Saturday by lowering the canal's water level to minimize flooding. The C&O Canal Trust is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to work in partnership with the National Park Service to protect, restore, and promote the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The Trust seeks to ensure that the park's natural, historical, and recreational potential is fully realized. If you would like to help their efforts to repair and preserve the canal, visit www.canaltrust.org.



The U19 Explosion, with coach Barry Langevin Missing from the photograph are Abigail Tjornehoj, Megan Foy, and Stephanie Boulter.

renovations.

Barnesville resident, Jackie Kempa, a fifth grade student at the Barnesville School, will perform in the role of Fan Scrooge, the sister of Ebenezer Scrooge. In the play, Fan is one of the characters in a flashback look at the Ghosts of Christmas Past.

The play continues performances until December 28, 2008.

Tickets are available at the Lansburgh Theatre Box Office 202-547-1122 or visit www.fords.org.

Local News

County Planning Board Approves Clarksburg Office Building

By Kristen Milton

Acting before the new Germantown Master Plan changes the rules, a developer had a seven-story office building approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board for the Clarksburg town center in a November 13 hearing.

Planning staff noted that there would be "greater opportunities and expectations for higher quality open space" under the master plan update currently under review but said the plan to construct the 235,000 square feet of office space on Century Boulevard met the requirements of the 1989 Master Plan still in effect.

The building and its 709 parking spaces will be built in an 11.5-acre plot of land east of Aircraft Drive. The proposal is already more modest than an earlier version, staffers noted, which had included a parking garage and restaurant. "Despite what you hear, there is a market out there waiting to be tapped, and we'd like to get to that market," Robert *Dalrymple*, attorney for Century XXI, noted when asked if the project could wait for the new plan. *Dalrymple* said the project had already been adjusted to accommodate future transit and that his client would be willing to return again with plans for a taller building should the new master plan allow it.

Board members approved the plans with various conditions, including requiring an additional transit way dedication and designs that receive certification in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System

A historic Damascus structure will be incorporated into a new home, under another plan

approved by the planning board.

There are currently two structures on the nearly-seven-acre plot of land on Huntmaster Road: a brick one-story home and the masonry-block Goshen School. The latter is on the county's locational atlas of historic resources, created in 1976 to be preliminary to inclusion in a master plan, but was not recommended for inclusion in the Damascus-Goshen Master Plan's Historic Preservation Amendment.

Under the approved plan, the current home will become an accessory building while the school will be part of a new home. There was no citizen comment on the plans, which were approved unanimously by the board.

A Clarksburg man was given six months to get a sewer line laid that will allow him to build two homes approved three years ago. Minter P. "Bubba" Farnsworth of Clarksburg originally asked for a three-year extension on plans for Kingsview Knolls: two homes he plans to construct on Schaeffer Road south of the intersection with Kingsbrook Drive.

Farnsworth said he had thought an adjacent developer's approved plans required bringing sewer service closer to his property line and did not want to spend extra money on the extension. The financial hardship argument at first drew little response from the board: "I'm trying to find sympathy for this, but I just can't," Commissioner Joe Alfandre said.

Planners did find more compelling the assertion that Farnsworth was misadvised about his prospects of getting relief and a comment by Rich Weaver that Farnsworth had been actively pursuing the matter with various agencies. Farnsworth said finances played only a small role and that he was now prepared to pay for the entire sewer line. "I guess I was led down the wrong path," he said. In the end, Farnsworth requested and was granted a six-month extension.

Remembrance

Harold Baker

By Kristen Milton

The Up-County lost a tireless advocate for farmers November 11 when Harold F. "Hal" Baker of Susanna Farm Nursery in Boyds passed away at Washington Adventist Hospital in Silver Spring.

Merritt Ednie, president of the Boyds Civic Association, said a memorial service for Baker was tentatively planned for November 22. Time and place remained to be announced at *Monocle* deadline.

Baker was both a former attorney and former chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Board. He often spoke in defense of the rights of the county's longtime farmers before the governmental agencies, resisting additional demands on property holders who he said accommodated the county when the Agricultural Reserve was formed in 1980. Baker

once told a reporter that problems often arose between farmers and the Ag Reserve residents who came later because the latter liked to see cows but would never understand why they had to smell them as well.

The Boyds Civic Association also benefited from Baker's service as he participated in battles ranging from the Rustic Road classification of White Ground Road to the preservation of eight hundred acres once slated for a quarry. Ednie said he worked with Baker on various issues for over twenty years. "I can say without reservations that his contributions to the Boyds community and the Up-County area in general are significant," Ednie wrote in an emailed tribute. "His love for the Boyds community and his passion for civic affairs served us well. The community has lost a true friend."

Ednie said Baker had never fully recovered from heart surgery in August.

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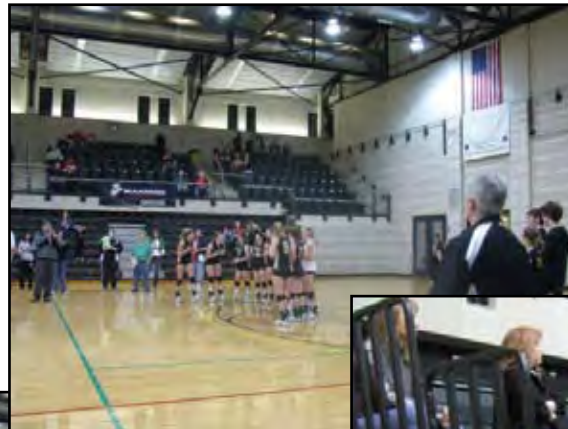
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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

During the period of October 29 to November 6, police responded to complaints of disorderly conduct at the following locations: 19500, 19600, and 19800 blocks of Fisher Avenue; also in the 19600 block of Wootton Avenue and 19400 block of Hoskinson Road.

October 29 Theft from a vehicle, 19900 block of Fisher Avenue.

November 4 Assault, 17400 block of Hoskinson Road, Poolesville. A juvenile reported to the police that he had been assaulted by another juvenile.

Past

November 24, 1946 A fourteen-year-old boy walked into the Bethesda police station and told officers that he had killed

his entire family at their estate in Darnestown. Police went to the house on Seneca Road and found the bodies of Ross Snyder, Jane Snyder, and teenage sister Jane Anne. Robert Snyder, 14, was charged with three counts of murder.

November 27, 1937 The three-story house of Lieutenant B. N. Headley, U.S. Army, retired, at Boyds was burned to the ground. The first report of the fire was turned in by the engineer of a B&O train that was traveling on the tracks near the home. The engineer blew his whistle until neighbors came out of their houses and saw the fire. Fire officials said that the loss was in the area of \$15,000.

November 27, 1961 A Martinsburg man was killed when his speeding car struck a bridge abutment on Route 107 near Poolesville.

November 30, 1934 Police were investigating the shooting of Russell King who was the son

of County Commissioner Charles E. King. Russell King had been shot in the back by an eighteen-year-old youth at Clarksburg and then was taken to the Frederick Hospital. A posse that had been pursuing the assailant found him dead of a self-inflicted wound.

December 2, 1903 John Gregg, of Washington, was arrested and charged with a violation of the milk laws. Gregg had brought milk into the city from the farm of Robert Kanode, a Gaithersburg dairyman, where a typhoid epidemic had been declared. At least nine Washington families had contracted typhoid fever as a result of drinking milk brought into the city from the outlying areas. Montgomery officials said that Kanode had suffered from typhoid for at least three weeks.



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*"Great Books" Continued From
Page 3.*

all the basics, including why to prune, tools to use, how a plant responds to pruning, and pruning methods for plants broken down by ornamental, edible, deciduous, evergreen, trees, shrubs, vines, houseplants, and perennials. This is a very useful book for both experienced and novice gardeners.

There are hundreds of books about individual plants and garden design on the market. Here are several I have read that you might find helpful.

As most of my readers know by now, I love roses, especially David Austin's English roses. His book, *Old Roses and English Roses*, is a beautiful little book of text and color photographs. *The Rose* is another beautifully- ted David Austin book. It is a guide to more than eight hundred varieties, with four hundred roses ted. *David Austin's English Roses* is a very informative and beautiful book about the history of these roses, different varieties, and their care.

Would you like to grow orchids, but you don't think your thumb is green enough for the care of these exotic beauties? *Four Seasons of Orchids* by Greg Allikas and Ned Nash is one of the best books I have seen on these plants. It is a brilliantly- ted guide offering practical advice about buying and growing the right orchid for the right location. If this book is to be a gift, it would be extra special if you included an orchid with the book. Behnke's Nurseries in Potomac carries a good selection of healthy orchids.

If you are interested in creating arrangements with cut flowers, you will enjoy *Simply Elegant Flowers* by Michael George. He is the florist for big name designers such as Vera Wang, Giorgio Armani, and Martha Stewart. In his book, he shares tips and techniques garnered from a lifetime of working with flowers. His modern, monochromatic style is summed up in his belief that "In my philosophy, I attempt to arrange them as they are in nature, which is already perfect."

The book contains many beautiful photographs of arrangements, and how-to instructions are amply ted.

Any gardening books by legendary English gardeners Rosemary Verey and Penelope Hobhouse would make a wonderful addition to any gardener's library. Ms. Verey, who died May 31, 2008, cultivated her four-acre garden, which she called her working lab, in the Cotswold area of England. *Rosemary Verey's Garden Plans* has been called one of the most inspiring garden plan books on the market. *Flower Gardens* and *Garden Style* are two books by Penelope Hobson that should be in your library. They are informative and beautifully ted.

Coffee Table Books

Coffee table books get no respect. Often, someone buys them because they are filled with fantastic photographs and limited text. They sit beautifully on a coffee table, never to be opened. Well, I beg to differ; I read often my coffee table books. Here are several that any coffee table would love to support.

You can hardly find a more beautiful book than *The Magic of Monet's Garden* by Derek Fell. It captures the essence and beauty of Monet's garden at Giverny, his home about one hour outside of Paris. Monet said, "I perhaps owe having becoming a painter to flowers." Garden writer and photographer Fell visited Giverny many times and admired the beauty of its plantings and subtle balance of colors. Monet conceived his garden using the same skills of observation that he used as a painter. For any one who has visited Giverny, the book offers wonderful fond memories, and for those who have not, it offers a spectacular view of his artistic gardens. You might not be able to duplicate the effect in your gardens, but it is inspiring to see the workings of the mind of a painter-gardener.

As the beauty of flowers inspired Monet and art of all kinds, *Mr. Marshal's Flower Book* is a wonderful example of the art of botanical tion. It features selections from flower water-

colors from seventeenth century England with 140 illustrations organized by their season of bloom. The paintings show the era's most fashionable flowers such as tulips, carnations, primroses, as well as native English wildflowers.

Few gardens have such a potent mythology as the one created by Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicholson at Sissinghurst in the Kent district of England. To this day, it is a prime example of romantic gardening at its most successful. English writer, garden photographer, and horticultural consultant, Tony Lord, captures in his beautifully-written and ted book, *Gardening at Sissinghurst*, the elements that lie behind the garden's horticultural distinction.

Garden Essays

Books of garden essays belong next to your favorite chair near the fireplace or your bedside table. They are not page turners. They are meant to be picked up and savored for short spells of time, while you sit back and enjoy the beauty of the words in one sentence. I have two favorite such books which I have enjoyed savoring for several years. English detective author P.D. James called *The Potting Shed Papers* by Charles Elliott "the perfect bedside book." The book's subtitle is *On Gardens, Gardeners, and Garden History*. This is not a stuffy, academic account; it is a funny, pungent, and unpredictable collection of essays. The author is an editor and writer who lives in London and gardens in Monmouth near the Welsh border. In describing the art of gardening, he explores plants in particular, some famous plant people, machines, gardening books, old saws, "American Weeds," and "the Vegetable Patch," to name a few. This is one well-written, enjoyable book.

Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962) was a legendary English poet, novelist, and gardener. She was famous for her gardens at Sissinghurst. From 1946 until 1961, the London newspaper *Observer* carried her weekly garden column. There is a saying in the

-Continued on Page 18.

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Local News

2008 Royce Hanson Award

By Maureen O'Connell

Sunday, October 19, 2008 was a picture-perfect day at the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard. The sky was bright blue, the sun was shining, and there was a touch of fall in the air. It was an appropriate day to celebrate the existence of the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve and to bestow the 2008 Royce Hanson Award. In 2005, the Montgomery Countryside Alliance created this award in recognition of outstanding commitment toward the protection of the Agricultural Reserve. The Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard on Comus Road in Dickerson included this ceremony in its two-day annual Grape Stomp. There was barbecue and bluegrass, wine tastings, vineyard tours, and a real live barefoot grape-stomping competition. As a lead-up to the award, Mr. David Langstaff recalled the history of the founding of the Agricultural Reserve. Mr. Royce Hanson is considered the architect of the Reserve. It was created and adopted under his leadership as Chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Commission in 1980. He foresaw the need to save for future generations 93,000 acres of upper Montgomery County farmland, which would otherwise be turned over to development. Last year at a meeting of the Sugarloaf Citizens Association, Mr. Hanson said, "The creation of the Agricultural Reserve was not based in nostalgia. The Reserve does not attempt to preserve itself, circa 1980, in amber, but to provide for a dynamic, ever-changing working landscape that has continuity with its cultural heritage, but it is not an agricultural museum." It has now become a national model for land conservation. In 2005, the Montgomery Countryside Alliance honored Mr. Hanson with the creation of the Royce. He was the first recipient.

Mr. Langstaff introduced the

next speaker, Mr. Hanson, who briefly reminisced about how the Reserve came to be. He said he saw the dangers facing the upper county twenty-eight years ago. If development continued at its current rate, Montgomery County would soon lose most of its agricultural land. "My colleagues and I knew then that we were doing something very important, and now twenty-eight years later, we see even more clearly how very important the beginning steps were." The Reserve is central to protecting the ecosystem within its borders. Mr. Hanson reminded us that the fight is not over. One can never rest on or trust the status quo. We must find answers to carbon sequestration and energy costs, and we must encourage the production of locally farmed foods. We are only at the beginning of our quest. We face issues regarding zoning, sand mounds, and the child lot phenomenon. Mr. Hanson stressed that it is vitally important to continue to acquire easements to further protect our agricultural land.

Mr. Hanson presented the 2008 Royce Hanson Award to Peg Coleman of Boyds. He said that we honor Peg not only as a tireless promoter of the Agricultural Reserve, but as an author whose books educate us about early life in Montgomery County. Peg was born in Montana and has been a county resident since 1968. In 1980, Peg and her husband bought a farm on Barnesville Road. It included an abandoned 1768 log cabin, which they restored, and it is now a National Historic Register site. Her books include *Montgomery County: A Pictorial History*, *Mama Wears Two Aprons*, and *Around Germantown*. Peg has worked on many land use issues affecting the Agricultural Reserve. She has also served on the county's Agricultural Committee and Board. She has opened her farm, Pleasant Springs, to many school groups to learn about farming practices in rural Montgomery County. Preservation of local historic sites is very important to Peg. She founded the Boyds Historical Society and spear-

headed the restoration of the Boyds Negro School. In accepting her award, Peg said that it was a special honor to receive this award from the hands of Royce Hanson. For forty years, she carefully followed the happenings and development of the upper Montgomery County farmlands. She studied the county's Master Plan with an eye to what would happen to the open spaces and farmland that she loved. In her



The Royce Hanson Award was presented to Peg Coleman. Also pictured are State Senator Rob Garagiola and Royce Hanson

closing remarks, Peg said that she has always wanted a farm and to be a farmer. Now, receiving this award, she feels like she has fulfilled her dream.

State Sen. Rob Garagiola presented Peg with a print of Tina Brown's painting of the Agricultural Reserve. He thanked the Montgomery Countryside Alliance for its work in preserving the Reserve. He especially thanked Royce Hanson for his efforts in the Reserve's creation and his continuing work to keep it a reality.

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Things to Do

November 21 and 22

Christmas Attic Sale
St. Peter's Church
Unique Decoration items and more
Bake Sale and Pecans
Friday: noon to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

November 22

Pet Portraits at
Old Poolesville Town Hall
Perfect for cards and gifts
50% to benefit Historic Medley
Walk-ins accepted
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

November 21, 22, & 23

Sugarloaf Craft Festival
Montgomery County Fairgrounds
Unique gifts, crafts, food
Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

November 23

Poolesville Churches
Community Thanksgiving Worship Service
Sponsored by Poolesville Churches
Hosted by Poolesville Baptist Church
Worship, song, fellowship, and refreshments
7:00 p.m.

November 24

Book Discussion Group
Poolesville Library
A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League
- Ron Suskind
7:30 p.m.

November 27

Thanksgiving Day

December 5

Holiday Light Ceremony
Whalen Commons - Poolesville
Santa at 6:00 p.m.
Park Lighting at 7:00 p.m.

First Friday Holiday Shopping
Craft and Artisan Show
Retailers in Poolesville
Old Town Hall Craft Show
Refreshments
5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Weinberg Center
A Prairie Home Companion
Robin and Linda Williams
NPR stars perform, \$10.00
8:00 p.m.

Holiday Open House
Martin's Antiques
Buckeystown
All Day

December 6

Breakfast with Santa
UMVFD Fire hall
Beallsville
Begins at 8:00 a.m.

St. Nicholas Visits Children
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Breakfast and treats
8:30 a.m.

December 7

The Living Proof Singers
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December 20

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Local News

County Planning Board Approves Clarksburg Office Building

By Kristen Milton

Acting before the new Germantown Master Plan changes the rules, a developer had a seven-story office building approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board for the Clarksburg town center in a November 13 hearing.

Planning staff noted that there would be "greater opportunities and expectations for higher quality open space" under the master plan update currently under review but said the plan to construct the 235,000 square feet of office space on Century Boulevard met the requirements of the 1989 Master Plan still in effect.

The building and its 709 parking spaces will be built in an 11.5-acre plot of land east of Aircraft Drive. The proposal is already more modest than an earlier

version, staffers noted, which had included a parking garage and restaurant. "Despite what you hear, there is a market out there waiting to be tapped, and we'd like to get to that market," Robert Dalrymple, attorney for Century XXI, noted when asked if the project could wait for the new plan. Dalrymple said the project had already been adjusted to accommodate future transit and that his client would be willing to return again with plans for a taller building should the new master plan allow it.

Board members approved the plans with various conditions, including requiring an additional transit way dedication and designs that receive certification in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System

A historic Damascus structure will be incorporated into a new home, under another plan approved by the planning board.

There are currently two

-Continued on Page 20.

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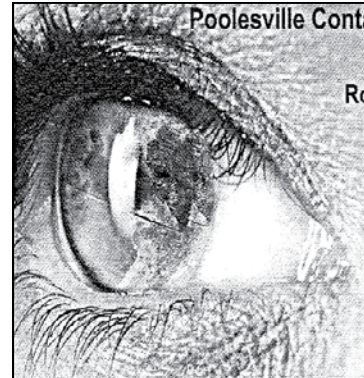
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"Poolesville Shuts Down"
Continued From Page 1.

was due to consistency of effort and a style of play that emphasizes a team effort for success. She told them that they were ready for their challenge and that they could be confident but not cocky. Most of all, she exhorted them to stay focused on their goal, in their play, and on the game ahead, and not to be distracted by hype. She told them that success would come from a one hundred percent effort. There was only a small part left to the season. It would be the hardest part, but they were prepared for the challenge, she told them. The girls then closed ranks and raised their hands.

The girls heeded the call to remain focused on the game. Their execution was nearly flawless. Poolesville finished with thirty-five kills and only five errors in the title match, but they were, themselves, instrumental in hyping the event, urging their friends to come and "black out" Ritchie Coliseum. Assistant Coach Dan Duvall urged his Poolesville Middle School students to attend. The result was a capacity crowd at the Coliseum, more than half wearing Poolesville black and gold. The atmosphere was electric. The seven seniors, freshmen at the time, had all been there for the school's first trip to the state finals in 2005. They knew they would be back to finish the job. They worked hard to get there.

"I think the team was ready to compete when the tournament started this year," said Duvall. "They pushed hard at practice and had a singular focus. They never took their eyes off the prize. I thought we showed how dominant a team we were through the playoffs. We swept teams that were strong. What this team accomplished is impressive."

Awards were handed out to players by Poolesville Principal Deena Levine and athletic director Fred Swick, but the loudest applause was reserved for Coach Duvall, the

players and fans chanting her name. The memorable evening was brought to a close with a celebration at Cugini's Pizza in Poolesville.

The road to victory in this sixty-four-team tournament began with a 3-0 sweep over Hancock at Poolesville, followed by a 3-1 victory over Williamsport in the 1A west region semifinal. That is significant because Williamsport, while losing in four, became the only team to beat the Falcons in a single game in 2008. In their final appearance of the year at Poolesville, the Falcons defeated visiting Fort Hill 25-14, 25-20, 25-18, on Friday, November 7 to capture the 1A West Region title and to move into the state semifinals. The Falcons swept South Carroll, 25-19, 25-19, 25-13, to advance to the state final for the first time since 2005. The Cavaliers won the 1A state title last year, but, this year, they were seldom able to get a shot over the net without it being deflected. Poolesville jumped to a 10-2 lead in the first game and weathered a South Carroll comeback that brought the Cavaliers to 21-17.

The Falcons may be the best team in the county, having defeated some of the county's best in 4A Churchill and Gaithersburg, and 3A Bethesda-Chevy Chase. "They are definitely the best team we've played this year," said Gaithersburg coach Michele Staymates. B-CC's Michelle Clise agrees, "You know what I really think is that we competed with the best team in Montgomery County," said Clise after an early season loss to Poolesville.

What about next year? "Probably the player who is key for us and gets the least recognition is [junior] Kelly Rosenberg," says Duvall. "She plays opposite Jenny Better and plays great defense and controls the ball. She brings a lot of energy and encourages her teammates everyday to be better and play harder while doing it herself. Kelly will be back next year to lead this team. She is a three-year varsity player and knows

what it will take to get back to the feeling the girls are feeling right now. Kelly was a huge part of what we accomplished this year." Paige Sekerak will be back as well.

They do not retire high school jersey numbers, but in Poolesville, they will remem-

ber Better, # 15, Glowacki, #27, Chittenden, #22, and Blanc, #11. The girls that wear those numbers in the future should heed the advice of their predecessors: Don't live up to anything. Raise the bar.

"Great Books" Continued From
Page 14.

newspaper world that the acid test of really good journalism is whether or not it will bear re-reading in book form. Ms. Sackville-West passes the test with flying colors. Her articles have been put together in a series of four books: *In Your Garden*; *More in Your Garden*; *In Your Garden Again*; and *Even More in Your Garden*. Her articles are arranged according to the month in which they were published. They combine a simple, honest account of her gardening experiences with an inspiring romantic sensibility.

Her combination of informality and practical advice creates a style that informs as well as entertains. You don't have to be an actual, dirt-on-the-hands gardener to enjoy her accounts. You can sit indoors and dream of a garden.

Well, I hope I have given you a start on your holiday shopping. The older I get, the more I enjoy gifts that are not just things. Books are in another category. They have the capacity to inspire and live forever.

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Tributes



Pictured are: Bob Ouellette, Specialist First Class, United States Army(Retired) and Commander Montgomery County American Legion; Manuel Arragon, Captain, U.S. Army, WWII; Carol Errillenne, Sergeant, U.S. Army, Operation Enduring Freedom; Bart Trimboli, Private, U.S. Army, 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division D-Day; Col. Dave Griffith, U.S. Army, Director Freedom Team Salute; Mike Stanley, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, 18th Aviation Brigade, Desert Storm.

Centurion D-Day Veteran Honored

The U.S. Army's Freedom Team Salute's director Col. Dave Griffith presented commendations to Mr. Bartolo Trimboli, 100, of Potomac and three other veterans. Mr. Trimboli, who turned one hundred on March 15, was recognized during The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Post 295's Veterans Day program held at the Golden Bull on Tuesday, November 11.

On June 7, 1945, Pvt. Bart Trimboli landed in Normandy as part of the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. He was wounded in action and received the Purple Heart. Also honored by the Freedom Team Salute was Mannie Aragon of Bethesda who served as captain during WWII and was assigned to the Manhattan Project. Mike Stanley, of Montgomery Village who served as a staff sergeant in Desert Storm with the 18th Aviation Brigade, and Sergeant Errillene, a U.S. Army recruiter and Operation Enduring Freedom veteran received commendations.

The Veterans Day program was organized by Bob Ouellette, Post 295, Montgomery County American Legion Commander.

"Clarksburg Town Center" Continued From Page 1.

especially contentious element involved changing a three-story parking garage to two levels and cutting a second garage in the town center.

Newland and its consultant said economic realities required the change, and that retail developers and potential grocery tenants had expressed concerns.

It was not a good enough argument for some. "There is no escape clause allowing the developer to claim concern over current market conditions as justification to avoid completion of this project under compliance guidelines," said Jim Humphrey of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, who said fines for the years-old building violations should be reconsidered if fundamental changes were allowed.

The long-anticipated development may hang in the balance. "If adjustments are not made, we're not so optimistic the community will be completed," Newland Regional Vice President

Douglas Delano said.

Some area residents testified in support of the submitted plans in spite of Newland's changes. Emily Lederer, who has lived six years in Clarksburg awaiting the promised town center, submitted a petition of support and said that while the "drama" of the past four years had been "painful," she was not accepting an inferior product. "I simply believe this plan is better," Lederer said.

Susan Paine of Damascus said the debate was dividing neighbors. "These open spaces that have not been completed are like open sores in that community," she said. "They need to be completed. This is a good plan."

But Kim Shiley, vice presi-

dent of the Clarksburg Town Center Advisory Committee, said important, hard-fought details had been dropped from the plans. "It just breaks my heart," she said.

The board did decide on elements of the development, including the library site, upper limit of houses and retail space, and brick sidewalks rather than asphalt. Commissioner Amy Presley did not attend the hearing and recused herself from voting due to her prior membership on the Clarksburg Town Center Advisory Committee

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Big Board

Hot Gifts, Cool Fun

The Sugarloaf Craft Festival returns for its annual fall event which promises to be their biggest show of the year. Shoppers will enjoy the high quality and ingenuity of hundreds of American artists and craft designers. Find unique gifts, shop with friends, sample specialty foods, and enjoy the children's shows.

The festival opens on November 21 and runs through November 23 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. The event is open on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, visit SugarloafCrafts.com.

Christmas Attic Sale

Another great Christmas Attic Sale is just around the corner at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, on Friday, November 21 from noon to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come shop for one-of-a-kind and vintage Christmas decorations and ornaments. There is Christmas in every way you can think of from cookie tins, candles, stuffies, linens,

cards, ornaments, trees, wreaths, lights, ribbons, mugs, dishes, clothing, stockings, and every decoration imaginable! There will also be a Bake Sale (think Thanksgiving, too!), and fresh-shelled pecans will be available in one-pound bags. Donations of new and used Christmas items are gladly accepted from November 15 to November 20. So get in the Christmas Spirit and go to St. Peter's at 20100 Fisher Avenue in Poolesville. For more information, call the church office at 301-349-2073. HO, HO, HOpe to see you there!

Winterglow

View, admire, and purchase original art, affordable prints, jewelry, pottery, stained glass, and more at the Art League of Germantown's art show and sale on November 21 and 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and November 23 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the BlackRock Center for the Arts.

Pet Portraits at Poolesville Town Hall

Hilary Schwab Photography will be taking pet portraits on Saturday, November 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. by appointment

-Continued on Page 21.

"Town Planning" Continued From Page 16.

structures on the nearly-seven-acre plot of land on Huntmaster Road: a brick one-story home and the masonry-block Goshen School. The latter is on the county's locational atlas of historic resources, created in 1976 to be preliminary to inclusion in a master plan, but was not recommended for inclusion in the Damascus-Goshen Master Plan's Historic Preservation Amendment.

Under the approved plan, the current home will become an accessory building while the school will be part of a new home. There was no citizen comment on the plans, which were approved unanimously by the board.

A Clarksburg man was given six months to get a sewer line laid that will allow him to build two homes approved three years ago. Minter P. "Bubba" Farnsworth of Clarksburg originally asked for

a three-year extension on plans for Kingsview Knolls: two homes he plans to construct on Schaeffer Road south of the intersection with Kingsbrook Drive.

Farnsworth said he had thought an adjacent developer's approved plans required bringing sewer service closer to his property line and did not want to spend extra money on the extension. The financial hardship argument at first drew little response from the board: "I'm trying to find sympathy for this, but I just can't," Commissioner Joe Alfandre said.

Planners did find more compelling the assertion that Farnsworth was misadvised about his prospects of getting relief and a comment by Rich Weaver that Farnsworth had been actively pursuing the matter with various agencies. Farnsworth said finances played only a small role and that he was now prepared to pay for the entire sewer line. "I guess I was led down the wrong path," he said. In the end, Farnsworth requested and was granted a six-month extension.

Town Meeting

The Poolesville Town Commissioners' Meeting – November 17, 2008

The unusually large attendance of over twenty persons resulted in an extended commissioners' meeting.

Prior to the start of business, Ray Hoewing of Poolesville Online was honored with a commemorative town flag by the commissioners for his work with the online newspaper in reporting town news. Mr. Hoewing recently announced that the journal will no longer be published.

Board of Elections chairman, Tom Kettler, presented the official results of the 2008 commissioners' election. Of the 3289 town voters, 1152 cast ballots with 912 for Link Hoewing, 844 for Jerry Klubokowski, 663 for Eddie Kuhlman, and 634 for Roy Johnson. Link Hoewing's nomination of Eddie Kuhlman for president of the commission received unanimous support. Jerry Klubokowski was elected vice president. Commissioner liaison assignment to Town Committees was designated with Jim Brown assigned to the Parks Board, Tom Yeatts to the Community Economic Development Committee (CEDC), Jerry Klubokowski to the Poolesville School Cluster, and Link Hoewing to the Planning Board.

During the open forum, a number of residents came forward to make public comments. Tom Dillingham requested support allowing the International Order of the OddFellows to paint a commemorative historical mural representing the contributions of the group which this year celebrates its 150th anniversary of extensive public service to the community. Their property in Poolesville is the location of the Poolesville Barber shop at the corner of Routes 109 and 107. The proposed mural would overlook the parking lot of the barber shop.

As presented, the mural

design could not be approved as it meets the legal definition of a sign within the town sign ordinance which specifically prohibits signs directly painted onto the surface of a building. Citing the long history of public service of the organization, Mr. Dillingham requested that an exception to the ordinance be allowed. As written, the ordinance currently prevents the Sign Board Review committee from making exceptions to signs that are listed as "prohibited." Mr. Kuhlman requested that the Oddfellows make a formal application for the mural with specific information so that the Sign Review Board could then make a recommendation that might include changes in the ordinance to hopefully resolve the impasse.

Dennis Minor, president of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, petitioned the support of the commissioners in preventing a county proposal to require financial charges for emergency ambulance service. Although the proposal has been turned down by the county council, the county executive branch is pursuing other means to develop the plan. As proposed, users of ambulance services would be responsible for a fee of \$450.00 plus \$7.80 per mile from the point of pickup to delivery. Mr. Minor voiced concern that seriously ill persons might fail to call for needed support due to the expense. Expressing the organization's gratitude for the support by the commissioners that helped prevent the relocation of county emergency training facilities to Edwards Ferry Road, he asked that the commission similarly assist in this matter. The commissioners have no official responsibility in such county decisions, but their influence has shown results in the past. The commissioners agreed to officially support the UMCVFD's resistance to ambulance fees.

Rudy Gole spoke strongly in support of allowing home businesses, and in particular, those of Dr. Robin Mevissen. He also

-Continue on Page 22.

"Big Board" Continued From Page 20.

or walk-in. There is a \$20.00 sitting fee. Prints and holiday cards are available for an additional fee. Fifty percent of the sitting fee will be donated to the Historic Medley District. For more information, call 301-349-2322 or visit hilary@hschwabphotography.com. Weinberg Center Presents: A **Prairie Home Companion Stars**

The Weinberg Center for the Arts presents legendary country/folk performers Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group when they perform at the Center on Friday, December 5, at 8:00 p.m. Robin and Linda Williams are favorites on the popular NPR program, *A Prairie Home Companion*. This will be an unforgettable evening with one of the quintessential groups of folk and bluegrass music that you won't want to miss. Robin

"Black Gold" Continued From Page 6..

manure, sawdust and chips, and straw. Nitrogen-rich, green items include discarded hay, plant trimmings, non-noxious weeds, garden debris, and flowers. Please do not compost black walnut tree or cherry leaves or twigs, as these are dangerous to equines; any other lethal plants, bushes, clippings, and/or weeds, diseased or insect-ridden plants, and pet waste should also be avoided.

Each equine will produce nine to ten tons of raw waste per year, which is approximately one ton of concentrated, finished compost. Two of your piles will be current (use old fence boards to provide a runway for your wheelbarrow; alternately, if you have a slope, you can drop your wheelbarrow loads from the height into the compost pit). A third pile will be seasoning, while a fourth is finished. Finished compost is rich, brownish-black, crumbly, and sweet-smelling humus. Use it to cover pasture seed before it germinates, dig it into your gardens, fertilize fruit trees and bushes, and top-dress pastures. Your local county agent

and Linda are on the road behind their brand new Red House Records album, *Buena Vista*. For tickets, call the Weinberg Center for the Arts at 301-600-2828 or visit www.weinbergcenter.org. Tickets range from \$20.00 to \$25.00; 18 and under – tickets are only \$10! **Santa's Coming for a Breakfast at the Fire Hall**

On Saturday, December 5, Santa Claus will make his annual visit to the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department for a delicious breakfast, films, and the very popular toy railroad track. He will be there early for breakfast but will be hearing from the kids and their wish lists until 1:00 p.m. This wonderful event is another way for Santa to help the volunteers since the cost of the pancake breakfast helps out the fire department.

Gaithersburg Winter Lights Festival

or soil conservation district official will help you assess the nutrient value of your manure and your finished compost, suggest ways to avoid losing nitrogen in the composting process, as well as tell you how many hundred weight or tons should be applied to your fields and when. Generally, avoid adding more than about a quarter inch at a time, up to three to four times a year during the growing season. Composted horse manure is a slow release fertilizer that minimizes leaching or run-off, thereby minimizing environmental pollution. When spreading it on pastures, ensure that at least a six-month period of no-grazing is followed.

Eager to learn more? Consult your nutrient manager; ask for the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service's publication "On Farm Composting Handbook" from the Cooperative Extension Service in Ithaca, New York; and attend the Maryland Cooperative Extension's Better Composting School which is held annually in the fall. Also consider using the Compost Recipe Maker Software available from the United States Department of Agriculture (Pat Lupo, 301-405-1395). Don't waste your Black Gold!

val Set to Dazzle in December

The Gaithersburg's Winter Lights Festival returns for a thirteenth season of magical delight December 5, 2008 through January 3, 2009. You can enjoy a sneak preview of the lights when you drive through Seneca Creek State Park on Friday or Saturday, November 28 or 29. During the two-day premiere, the festival will be open from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$12.00 per car.

On Sunday, November 30 there will be a special 2.2 mile walking tour of the holiday displays in the park. This is a great way to see the dazzling displays from the ground up. Registration is required for this event. No parking will be allowed at Seneca Creek State Park. Satellite parking is available at 9 West Watkins Mill Road. A free shuttle will run back and forth to the park from 5:15 to 7:45 p.m. Admission is \$12.00 per person for those over 13, \$5.00 for those between the ages of 3 and 12, and free for children 2 and under who must be carried or who travel in a collapsible stroller. Walk registration forms are available on the

festival website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/winterlights.

The festival will then be open nightly for drive-through traffic December 5 through January 3. It is closed on December 25 and January 1.

Gaithersburg Community Chorus Celebrates Sounds of the Season with Free Winter Concert

The sixty-member Gaithersburg Community Chorus will present a free concert on Saturday, December 13, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Directed by Hugh Harvey III and accompanied by Mary Lu Hartsell, the chorus celebrates twenty-one years of joyful song with a *Christmas Cantata* by Daniel Pinkham, a *Christmas Oratorio* by Camille Saint Saëns, and an *Israeli Chassidic Medley*.

The performance will take place at the Gaithersburg High School Auditorium, 314 S. Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

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Local News

Letter from Iraq

By Kenneth Sholes, First Lieutenant, United States Army



Greetings from beautiful Iskandariyah, Iraq! For those of you who don't know me, I am a 2002 graduate of Poolesville High School and a 2006 graduate of West Point. I am currently deployed with the 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and we are just over twelve months into a fifteen-month deployment. As a First Lieutenant, I work as an advisor concentrating on understanding and defeating enemy networks.

We arrived in Iraq in October 2007 and moved into Forward Operating Base Iskan, which is next to the Euphrates River, approximately thirty miles south of Baghdad, and where we share our living space with a large Cold War-era power plant. With no time to waste, our battalion quickly began targeting enemy fighters, building local infrastructure, and working with Iraqi Security Forces in an attempt to improve their capabilities and to transition responsibility of our area to them. Our area of operations lies right in the middle of the Sunni/Shia fault line, and as a result, we have been forced to deal with extremists from both sides of the house.

One program that has helped with security in the area is the "Sons of Iraq" program, which is commonly referred to as the Awakening Council, and which began in Anbar Province. This program employs individuals to man checkpoints in their own communities and along our main routes in an attempt to prevent extremists from emplacing IEDs (improvised explosive device). The irony of the program is that it employs many of the same individuals who formerly supported the insurgency—both actively and passively—but who now work with us to keep the area secure. In terms of local

infrastructure, our battalion has financed multiple projects ranging from the construction of schools, hospitals, and civic infrastructure to the cleaning and refurbishment of canals, roadways, and bridges. The Iraqi Security Forces have improved a great deal over the last twelve months. I personally work with an Iraqi Army officer on almost a daily basis to ensure that he has a clear understanding of the current security situation in our area. The most significant factor preventing the Iraqi Security Forces from taking full responsibility is their lack of resources. For example, the Iraqi Army Battalion with which my unit works closely has a major shortage of vehicles and fuel, seriously hindering its mobility. As a result, the unit is forced to rely on American soldiers to continue thorough patrols of the area in an attempt to deny safe haven to the enemy.

I spend most of my time concentrating on those individuals in the area who continue to conduct attacks against American soldiers. While security in the area has improved greatly over the last year, there are still plenty of enemy fighters who would like to reverse the gains we have made. The most resilient enemy group we face on a daily basis is Al Qaeda in Iraq, and we have detained multiple individuals over the deployment who were loyal to the organization. However, the majority of fighters we face here are not the true "global jihadists" who wish to spread radical Islam across the world. Instead, the fighters attacking our patrols are mostly uneducated individuals from rural areas who are typically unemployed or of low income. For this reason, economics and employment play such a huge role in defeating this insurgency.

The major issue that I see in Iraq moving forward as a stable democracy remains the sectarian divide between the Sunni and Shia. While there is not widespread sectarian violence as was seen in 2006 and early 2007, there is clear tension between the largely Shia government of Iraq and the Sunni populace who were formerly favored under Saddam

Hussein's regime. Because the Government of Iraq is largely Shia, so too are the Iraqi Security Forces. One of the major points that we continue to stress to the Iraqi Army is the need to be non-sectarian and to target all extremists equally, regardless of whether they are Sunni or Shia.

My unit is set to redeploy

"Local News" Continued From Page 22..

suggested that the proffer from Winchester Homes of \$1,050,000 be used to help pay off a \$750,000 loan the Town has outstanding from the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant.

In official town business, an investigation by town engineer, John Strong of Huron Consulting, confirmed that drainage swales along Westerly Avenue in Poolesville, which were constructed at the time of development of the Westerly subdivision, were not in compliance with town and county requirements. Prior to making a formal recommendation as to corrective action, he noted that a survey of each swale on the street needed to be conducted. The commissioners agreed to the suggestion.

In a previous town meeting, the commissioners had been requested by Don and Linda Barnes of Selby Avenue in Poolesville to review the Barneses' appeal to the Board of Appeals (BOA) to reverse approval granting special exception allowing a home business by a neighbor.

The Barnes family shares a "pipe stem" driveway with the Mevissen family in Tama I. The BOA approved a Mevissen application for special exception to provide optometry services from her home. Town ordinance allows for special exceptions in non-commercial areas providing the service from the home is by a professional living in the residence. The BOA granted a request by the Barneses to reconsider and reverse the original approval; however, after further review, the committee held to its original decision granting the exception.

Suggesting conflict of interest on the part of members of the BOA and citing other zoning issues, the

sometime in December, and with any luck I should be back in Poolesville for Christmas. For those of you who continue to support the troops over here, I would like to thank you on their behalf. You would be surprised how far a few words of encouragement or a small care package will go. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Barneses were looking for possible support on their behalf by the commission, or in failing to achieve that objective, sought support in preventing such special exceptions in the future.

Alan Wright, the town attorney, reviewed the written complaint submitted by the Barneses and determined that the BOA properly followed all legal requirements including not having conflict of interest. With that report, the commissioners noted that they do not possess authority to reverse the decision of the BOA. According to the town attorney, the matter will now proceed to circuit court.



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